

APPARATUS, METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING NETWORK SECURITY

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Devices, systems and related methods are disclosed for improving operational
5 security of a network and/or network devices, such as wireless access points (APs). In
the disclosed systems, a network device is not fully operational until it is attached to a
network and downloads sensitive information. The information is stored in the network
device so that when the device is disconnected from the network, the sensitive
information is erased from the device, making the device inoperative and removing
10 sensitive information, such as passwords, network security keys, or the like. Disabling
the network device in this manner not only prevents the theft of sensitive network access
information, by also discourages theft of the device itself because it cannot be used on
another network without the configuration information. In addition to downloading
configuration information, the network device can also download an executable image
15 that is likewise not permanently resident on the device.